

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service)	
)	CC Docket. No. 96-45
Virginia Cellular LLC Petition for Designation as)	
an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the)	
State of Virginia)	
)	
)	

ORDER

Adopted: May 24, 2002

Released: May 24, 2002

By the Assistant Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau:

Revised Filing Dates:

Comments Due: June 3, 2002

Reply Comments Due: June 11, 2002

1. On April 26, 2002, Virginia Cellular LLC (Virginia Cellular) filed with the Commission a petition under section 214(e)(6), seeking designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in the state of Virginia.¹ On May 15, 2002, the Commission released a *Public Notice* to develop a record regarding Virginia Cellular’s petition.² The *Public Notice* stated that interested parties could file comments on or before May 24, 2002, and reply comments on or before May 31, 2002. On May 21, 2002, NTELOS, Inc. (NTELOS) filed a petition to extend the deadlines for filing comments and reply comments in this proceeding to June 7, 2002 and June 21, 2002, respectively.³

¹ See *Virginia Cellular LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Virginia*, filed April 26, 2002 (Virginia Cellular Petition).

² See *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Virginia Cellular LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Virginia*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, DA 02-1152 (rel. May 15, 2002) (*Public Notice*).

³ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Virginia Cellular LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Virginia*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Request for Extension of Comment Period (filed May 21, 2002) (NTELOS Request). NTELOS is the parent company of two incumbent local exchange carriers in Virginia and has wireless, competitive local exchange carrier, and Internet operations in Virginia and West Virginia.

2. NTELOS wishes to delay the comment due dates until after the annual meeting of the Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association (VTIA) on May 29-31, 2002.⁴ NTELOS explains that many small Virginia telecommunications companies rely on VTIA to present their concerns. Accordingly, only after the VTIA annual meeting will these companies be able to determine whether VTIA will file comments for them or whether they should file comments on their own.

3. We grant in part and deny in part the request of NTELOS for extension of time to file comments and reply comments. It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely granted.⁵ We find that there is good cause to grant an extension of time to allow carriers to gather additional information at the VTIA annual meeting. We are not persuaded, however, to grant the full extension of time requested, because the Commission has committed to resolving the merits of all ETC petitions filed before it within six months of the dates filed. Accordingly, we grant a more limited extension than requested by NTELOS. Parties may file comments by June 4, 2002, and reply comments by June 11, 2002. This will give commenters additional time to develop the record without unduly delaying the proceeding. All other requirements discussed in the Public Notice remain in effect.

4. For further information, please contact Sheryl Todd, Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, at 202-418-7400.

5. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 5(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 155(c), and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, the request for extension of time filed by NTELOS, Inc. IS GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART as discussed herein.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mark G. Seifert
Deputy Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau

⁴ NTELOS Request at 2.

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).